

# PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

July 12, 2016

Members Present: Jim Zajkowski, Craig Kittel and Ron Volkert

Others Present: Jeremiah Wendt, Mike Darrow, Michael Mroz, Noah Wiedenfeld and Jeanne Bergman

Ron Volkert moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Craig Kittel and carried.

Craig Kittel moved to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2016 meeting, seconded by Ron Volkert and carried.

**Paperjack Creek Trail Fence:** The eastern extent of the 2016 Paperjack Drive project ends at the southern trailhead of the Paperjack Creek Trail. In order to make for a more well-defined and aesthetically pleasing trailhead area, residents have inquired about the possibility of the City adding a decorative fence in this area. The trail runs very close to a private garden and backyard area for the first 160', and a split-rail fence would maintain the aesthetic value of that area from the trail while defining the trail area and discouraging users from leaving the trail. Discussion followed on the need for a fence in this area and who should be responsible for the cost. Craig Kittel moved to approve the Paperjack Creek Trail fence at a 50/50 split (between homeowner and the City) of fencing costs with City staff labor involved, seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried.

**Alleys:** The City has approximately 8,500 linear feet (1-1/2 to 2 miles) of alleys, located primarily in the older part of the City, west of Knowles Avenue. Surfacing on the current alleys varies from gravel to asphalt. Where the alleys do not have an asphalt surface, the condition is very poor and in many cases has deteriorated to the point where plows, garbage trucks and residential vehicles have difficulty navigating the alley. Discussion took place on alley maintenance and abandoning alleys with little use. Jeremiah Wendt was asked to inventory the alleys and report back with their current condition. Repair and maintenance of the alleys will be added to the 2017 budget.

**Street Naming:** City Council has approved construction of a new street connecting Madison and Cernohous Avenue, approximately 350' north of West Richmond Way. The theme of streets in this area has been US presidents and New Richmond mayors. Jim Zajkowski moved to name this new road "Harrison Street", seconded by Craig Kittel and carried.

**Jug Handle Update:** City and DOT staff has been working cooperatively over the last several months to develop alternative plans for the future of the intersection of STH 65 and North Fourth/Wall Street. Jeremiah reviewed the revised plan and its variations. There will be a open house on July 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. to discuss the plan and alternative ideas with the surrounding property owners. Feedback from the open house will be shared at the August City Council meeting.

**Overhead Street Signs:** Staff has received requests from residents and visitors to have overhead street signs on Knowles Avenue at the intersections controlled by traffic signals. City staff is proposing a total of 14 signs, two at each intersection, at an approximate cost of \$2,000. Craig Kittel moved to order the signs this year, if the 2016 budget allows, or budget for this in 2017. Motion seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried.

**Compost Site Hours:** City residents have requested more user-friendly hours at the compost site. City staff has experimented with leaving the site open overnight and weekends with minimal detrimental effect. Discussion followed on extending the hours. Jim Zajkowski moved to open the compost site from 8 a.m. to sunset, seven days a week, seconded by Ron Volkert and carried. If problems occur, more signage will be added.

**Intersection of Hamilton Avenue and West Richmond Way:** With the continued development in the West Richmond Way area, traffic congestion has become more pronounced at the intersection of Hamilton Avenue and West Richmond Way. Because of the proximity to the traffic signals on STH 65/Knowles Avenue, signalizing this intersection is not an option. The next step in minimizing conflicts would be to restrict left turns from Hamilton Avenue and the Walmart parking lot or close the median in the middle of the intersection. This closure would have the effect of eliminating the left turns out, but also the left turns into Hamilton Avenue and Walmart. Before any action is taken, staff will visit with businesses in this area for their feedback and report back to the committee. A full signage plan for this area will be addressed. Staff recommends a phased approach to control conflicts at this intersection, with the first phase being to restrict left turns, and a future phase to include closure of the median.

**Jake Break Signage:** A resident in the Evergreen Valley subdivision has requested the installation of signs on CTH A, near West Richmond Way, that say “No Engine Braking Except in Emergency”. City staff has discussed with the County highway engineer and received approval to have the County install these signs, as this area is a County highway and not a City Street. Craig Kittel moved to direct the County to install the signage detailed above, on County Road A, as it enters the City limits, seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried.

**Golf Club Informational Signs:** The New Richmond Golf Club has requested wayfinding signage to direct the public to their facility. The current layout of some private driveways is causing confusion resulting in people entering these driveways. Homeowners are trying to correct the problem by putting up their own signs. The wayfinding signage would be installed at the City’s expense. Staff is proposing informational signage placed at the following locations:

- On CTH A just south of the tee intersection with Business 64, facing northbound traffic. “New Richmond Golf Club” with a left arrow.
- On CTH A/Business 64 just east of the bridge, facing westbound traffic. “New Richmond Golf Club” with a straight arrow
- On CTH A/Business 64 just east of the intersection with CTH K, facing westbound traffic. “New Richmond Golf Club” with a right arrow.

Craig Kittel moved to place signage as described above, seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried. Jeremiah will order the new signs and contact Gary Knutson from Richmond Township and ask homeowners to remove their signs.

**Intersection Visibility:** Staff has received several complaints about intersection visibility this season. Jeremiah explained the Vision Triangle Ordinance. Discussion took place on problem areas which are possibly in conflict with City Ordinances. Intersection visibility is considered a safety issue. Committee members were comfortable with the current ordinances and asked Jeremiah to continue to enforce them. Craig Yehlik will be asked to have his officer’s document any unsafe intersections not already reported.

**Tree Ordinance:** Jeremiah is the current City Forester and makes the decision to remove or have removed any trees which endanger the general public or other trees, plants or shrubs. City Ordinance states costs connected to tree removal are the responsibility of the owner of the property and/or abutting property owner. Discussion followed. Jeremiah and Noah Wiedenfeld were asked to review other community’s tree ordinances and report their findings at the next City Council work session in August.

**Communication and Miscellaneous:** None

Craig Kittel moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Volkert and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Bergman